

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine that varies a compression ratio, said internal combustion engine comprising:

a driving source that generates a rotational driving force to vary a compression ratio;

a transmission module that transmits the rotational driving force;

a compression ratio varying mechanism that receives the rotational driving force transmitted by said transmission module, drives at least one of a ~~piston head~~ cylinder block and a crank casing along the axis line of ~~the~~ a cylinder with the received rotational driving force, so as to vary a volume of a combustion chamber, thereby varying the compression ratio; and

a pressing module that produces a pressing force, which is to be applied to said ~~piston head~~ cylinder block and said crank casing,

in the course of actuation of said compression ratio varying mechanism to vary the compression ratio, said pressing module producing the pressing force according to the driving state of said ~~piston head~~ cylinder block and said crank casing and applying the pressing force to said ~~piston head~~ cylinder block and said crank casing to reduce a transmission torque of the rotational driving force of said driving source by said transmission module, thereby assisting said compression ratio varying mechanism to vary the compression ratio,

wherein said compression ratio varying mechanism drives at least one of said cylinder block and said crank casing, so that the relative position of them changes along the

axis line of the cylinder of the combustion chamber, wherein the pressing force is applied along the moving direction of said cylinder block and said crank casing, the pressing force is applied along the moving direction of said cylinder block and said crank casing, and said pressing module applies the pressing force to said cylinder block and said crank casing, such that the pressing force is combined with a first force, which is produced by a combustion pressure to be involved in the transmission of the rotational driving force to said compression ratio varying mechanism by said transmission module, and with a second force, which is produced by actuation of said compression ratio varying mechanism to be involved in the transmission of the rotational driving force, to reduce the transmission torque.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine in accordance with ~~claim 3,~~ claim 2, wherein said pressing module comprises a spring mechanism that has a spring characteristic regulated to supplement the first force in an actuation state of said compression ratio varying mechanism to decrease the compression ratio.

5. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine in accordance with ~~claim 3,~~ claim 2, wherein said pressing module comprises a spring mechanism that has a spring characteristic regulated to relieve the first force in an actuation state of said compression ratio varying mechanism to increase the compression ratio.

6-9. (Canceled)